



# SR 305 Agate Pass Bridge Cleaning

February 2016

## What's Happening?

As part of WSDOT's responsibility to maintain and inspect bridges along our state highways, the Agate Pass Bridge on State Route 305 will be cleaned in February, 2016. The work will require daytime single-lane closures across the bridge for 11 consecutive days.

## How will WSDOT manage traffic during the bridge cleaning?

WSDOT chose hours for the lane restrictions based on traffic volumes and ferry use. Single-lane alternating traffic will be controlled by flaggers on both sides of the bridge, and law enforcement personnel will control traffic at the SR 305/Suquamish Way intersection. Bicyclists and pedestrians will be escorted across the bridge during work hours. Accommodations will be made for emergency vehicles.

## What should drivers expect?

Drivers should expect long delays during the Agate Pass Bridge cleaning. WSDOT advises drivers to plan extra time for their journeys, minimize discretionary trips and/or avoid the bridge during the work hours listed below.

### Agate Pass Bridge Cleaning Traffic Impacts:

- Single-lane alternating traffic 7 days a week.

### When: February 16-26, 2016

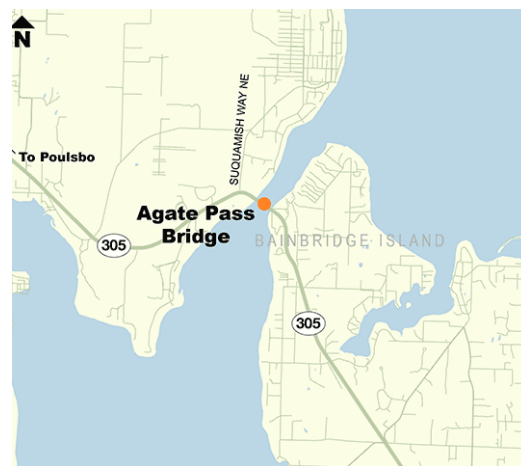
- 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Monday through Friday
- 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday

### Where can I get more information?

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360-357-2789  
[bakerc@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:bakerc@wsdot.wa.gov)  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/Regions/Olympic/BridgeCleaning/default.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Regions/Olympic/BridgeCleaning/default.htm)

## Why isn't the work taking place at night?

Safety is WSDOT's #1 priority. We want to ensure that nothing, not the crews, the equipment, the driving public or the bridge, are damaged or injured during the work. Maintenance crews will thread an articulated boom through the steel truss members of the bridge to reach very tight areas that must be cleaned by hand and/or flushed. Daylight is absolutely necessary to ensure that the maneuvering is accurate to avoid damaging



Agate Pass Bridge on State Route 305 in Kitsap County

the bridge and equipment. Crews need to be able to see and communicate with each other for efficiency and safety. The work is labor-intensive and several crews will be on the bridge simultaneously. Working at night introduces unacceptable safety risks and inefficiencies.

## How will the bridge be cleaned?

Multiple crews will work simultaneously on the bridge using two Under-Bridge-Inspection-Trucks (UBITs) and other equipment to reach various areas of the bridge. They will remove large accumulations of debris and animal droppings by hand, followed by a low-pressure, high volume flushing.

In addition to cleaning the bridge, crews will replace its outdated navigational light system with new LED lights, build access hatches for maintenance crews, remove rust, and treat rust areas with protective paint. Bridge engineers will also do an interim bridge inspection.

## Other questions...

### Why is the work being done in February?

February was chosen for several reasons. Peregrine falcons, a protected species, have historically nested on the bridge and February avoids their nesting season. February also has lower traffic volumes than summer travel months when bridge work had previously taken place. This bridge-cleaning activity has become an annual event in WSDOT's ongoing efforts to maintain the bridge.

### Will the Bainbridge Island Ferry run be affected?

WSDOT maintenance crews will monitor ferry boat landings to minimize delays to motorists exiting each ferry. The ferry schedule will not be affected, however motorists are advised to give themselves extra time when driving to the terminal.

### When was the last time the Agate Pass Bridge was cleaned?

The Agate Pass Bridge was cleaned and inspected in February, 2015. That effort took 21 days, during which time crews removed several tons of dirt and debris, addressed numerous maintenance needs, and performed a federally-mandated biennial inspection.

### Why is WSDOT cleaning the bridge again so soon?

The bridge cleaning effort has become an annual task, based on an agreement between WSDOT and the Department of Ecology. The agreement allows bridge crews to wash the bridge by flushing water over it after large amounts of debris have been hand-removed, provided this work is done annually. In an earlier pilot project, pre- and post-cleaning water tests by DOE both upstream and downstream of the bridge showed only minimal changes to water quality, well below environmental thresholds, with this cleaning method,

Previous to the agreement, the 1970 Clean Water Act required WSDOT to fully encase the bridge before cleaning it. Encasement is a cost-prohibitive endeavor that prevented WSDOT from cleaning the bridge for two decades before last year's cleaning.

### Is this work weather sensitive?

Yes. Freezing rain and snow could delay the work.



Crews will use two Under-Bridge-Inspection Trucks (UBITs) to clean and do maintenance on the Agate Pass Bridge in February 2016. This photo shows a UBIT being used to inspect the SR 167 Puyallup River Bridge.

### How will this bridge work affect pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the bridge?

For their own safety, bicyclists and pedestrians will be escorted across the bridge while work and lane restrictions are in progress. WSDOT advises bicyclists and pedestrians to anticipate delays.

### Why is cleaning the bridge so important?

Cleaning the bridge is a critical component of inspection and maintenance activities. Dirt, other organic debris and rust can hide potential maintenance problems that, if not addressed, can shorten the bridge's useful life.

### How many commuters use the bridge each day?

The Agate Pass Bridge is used by 22,000 vehicles each day.

### When was the bridge built?

The Agate Pass Bridge was built in 1950.

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